

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claim 7 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Please also amend Claims 1 and 8 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A laminating apparatus comprising:  
conveying means for conveying a laminating object;  
drying means for drying the laminating object conveyed by said conveying means;  
laminate means for effecting laminate processing on the laminating object dried by said drying means; and  
control means for controlling a temperature of said drying means so that the temperature of said drying means is adjusted to a predetermined temperature T1 before the laminating object arrives at said drying means and so that the temperature of said drying means is adjusted to a predetermined temperature T2 greater than the temperature T1 when the laminating object is being dried by said drying means,  
wherein the laminating object is a recording medium on which an image was formed by discharging ink from a recording head.

2. (Cancelled).
3. (Previously Presented) A laminating apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said drying means includes an upper drying roller for contacting with a surface, to be subjected to the laminate processing, of the laminating object, and a lower drying roller for contacting a back surface of the laminating object, and said upper laminating roller has a heater.

4. (Previously Presented) A laminating apparatus according to Claim 3, wherein, before said lower drying roller is rotated by one revolution after the temperature is changed by said heater, the laminating object is conveyed to a nip between said upper drying roller and said lower drying roller.

5. (Previously Presented) A laminating apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said laminate means includes a heat transferring head disposed at a side of a surface, to be subjected to the laminate processing, of the laminating object, and a roller disposed at a side of a back surface of the laminating object.

6. (Previously Presented) A laminating apparatus according to Claim 5, wherein said heat transferring head has an electrothermal converter.

7. (Cancelled).

8. (Currently Amended) A ~~recording~~ laminating apparatus according to Claim [[7]] 1, wherein ~~said~~ the recording head has an electrothermal converter for generating thermal energy utilized in discharging of the ink.

Please add new Claim 9 as follows.

9. (New) An image forming apparatus comprising:  
recording means for forming an image on a recording medium by  
discharging ink;

conveying means for conveying the recording medium on which an image is formed by said recording means;

drying means for drying the recording medium conveyed by said conveying means;

laminating means for effecting laminate processing on the recording medium dried by said drying means; and

control means for controlling a temperature of said drying means so that the temperature of said drying means is adjusted to a predetermined temperature T1 before the recording medium arrives at said drying means, and so that the temperature of said drying means is adjusted to a predetermined temperature T2 greater than the temperature T1 when the recording medium is being dried by said drying means,

wherein said control means adjusts the temperature of said drying means to the predetermined temperature T2 after forming of the image on the recording medium by said recording means is completed.